

16 Babbler



VOL. XXII.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1854.

NO. 9.

MAINE FARMER

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

NEW USE OF PLASTER OF PARIS.

Although proposing a new remedy for that most distressing and discouraging disease, spasmodic asthma, may not be an agricultural topic; yet if the use of it should only two out of twenty farmers who we know are troubled with this disorder, it cannot be said that it has done *farmers* no good. We will here premise that we have not tried this remedy, and know nothing practically in regard to its remedial powers.

We send the story of its use around, with a view to have it tried by the suffering who have as yet obtained nothing to relieve them. We find it communicated to the Boston Medical Journal, by J. P. Root, M. D., of New Hartford Centre, Ct. He gives two cases, as follows:

"Some three years since I was called to see a severe case of spasmodic asthma, in the person of a young lady of eighteen years. After going through with the articles commonly used in such cases, with but little effect, I accidentally hit upon the use of 'plaster of Paris,' in mixture, with almost magic like result.

The only thing previous to this that gave her much relief, was the smoking of stramonium leaves. Since using the plaster, however, she has been constantly improving. In fact, for the last two years or more, she has nearly forgotten what formerly alarmed not only herself and friends, but troubled her physicians. I have used this article ever since with similar results.

About two months since I was called to witness the agony of a little girl of twelve years, lately moved into this vicinity—more to console her friends than to relieve the sufferer, as they had given up the idea of ever seeing her cured, or even made better; for, to use their expression, they had "been to all the doctors and they didn't do her any good." She had not been in a recumbent position for a week. I immediately commenced the use of my favorite remedy, with results as before.

The mixture should be prepared similar to lime water, and used freely, diluted in water or milk, on each recurrence of the spasm."

Dr. Root goes on to say that he is in the habit of prescribing, for his asthmatic patients, cold sponge about the neck and chest, every morning, followed by brisk friction.

The readers of the farmer will see that a trial of this remedy will not involve much expense. Throw a handful of plaster into water. It will take about seven hundred parts of the water to dissolve one part of the plaster. That is, seven hundred grains, or ounces of the water, will dissolve one grain or ounce of the plaster.

Having attended to the human patient, let us consider it agriculturally, and enquire if it would not be useful for horses that have the hives. We consider the two diseases analogous, if not identical in character. We also consider them to originate in a peculiar condition of the stomach. Some years ago we noticed that "heavy horses," as they are called, were enormous eaters, and we have been assured by some men who have occasional attacks of asthma, that previous to the recurrence of the attack their appetites increases, and they eat much more than at other times. We have also known heavy horses much relieved by drinking water from a tub in which lime had been thrown.

Try the plaster of Paris water for them.

Query. Did you ever know an animal that chewed the cud, have the hives? We never did, and hence we think that our position is correct, viz: that these diseases originate in the stomach. The lungs of the ox and those of the horse vary but little in structure. Their stomachs vary very much indeed. The ox chews his food a second time, and it is very perfectly digested. The horse chews his food but once, and it is not so perfectly digested as that of the ox. The horse has the hives—the ox does not. We throw these hints out for phthisic folks to think of at their leisure.

CONCORD GRAPES AND HOVEY'S MAGAZINE OF HORTICULTURE.

In our advertising columns you will find a notice of Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture. This is the oldest Magazine of the kind in the United States, having reached its 20th volume. It is the only one published in New England. Its Editor, C. M. Hovey, is well known as an enterprising and energetic Horticulturist, having in company with his brother, a large nursery in Cambridgeport, Mass. This Magazine contains the results of the experiments of many of the best fruit culturists in New England, and has been instrumental in introducing to the acquaintance of very many, some of the best fruits now cultivated among us.

The number for this month contains a drawing and description of a splendid new grape, which was first raised by Mr. E. W. Bull, of Concord, Mass. It was fruited for the first time four years ago, and has ever since proved itself a first rate grape—the vine being hardy and the fruit large, and ripening by the 10th of September, which proves to be much earlier than the Isabella. Mr. Hovey describes it thus: "bunch large, long, neither compact nor loose, handsomely shouldered; berries roundish, large, three-quarters of an inch in diameter, sometimes measuring an inch; skin thin, very dark, covered with a thick blue bloom; flesh very juicy, nearly or quite free from pulp; flavor rich, saccharine and sprightly; vine very vigorous, making strong wood; leaves very large, thick, strongly nerved, but not much lobed, and woolly beneath."

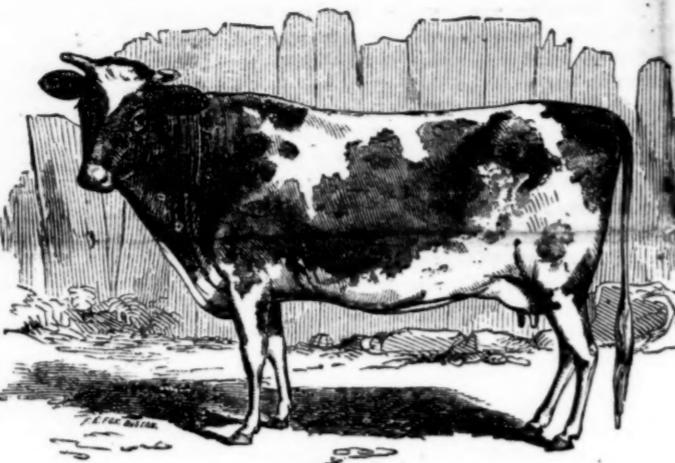
Far be it from me to say or do anything that shall hinder the progress of scientific knowledge in agriculture, but let us in the beginning seek out the best and most proper way of advancing it, so that we may not throw away years in useless toil and experiments, and then have to adopt some new method.

Ascorita.

From Hill, Feb. 10th, 1854.

BLOODY URINE. A correspondent asked some time ago a remedy for this complaint in cattle. Another correspondent, whose communication appeared in the Farmer of September 22, 1853, recommended the following. Give the animal, once in two days, in a quart of water, a table spoonful of nitric acid.

PAPER FROM WOOD. A patent has been granted in France for making paper from wood. The inventor uses no chemical agents whatever; mechanical action suffices to reduce the fibres into a pulp, from which excellent paper can be made.



Portrait of the Jersey Cow "Buttercup."

THE JERSEY COW.

As this breed of cows is making some noise in the world, as well as some butter, and as we know of none of them in Maine, we would call the attention of our farmers to the subject. It is an object for every farmer to have cows that will yield the greatest amount of butter or cheese, or both at the least cost. The advocates of this breed, contend that for yielding large amounts of excellent butter, there is a breed of cows equal to the Jersey, or, as they are frequently called Alderney cow.

They should be called the "Improved Jersey Cow," as they are a breed derived from improvements made on the "old fashioned" cow, kept on the island of Jersey, in the English Channel. This old fashioned cow, if we may believe Yount's account of it was an ill-formed cow, a tender, homely creature, but famous for giving exceedingly rich milk, though but little of it.

A gentleman residing on that island, by the name of Le Couteur, who was a Colonel-side-de-Camp of the Queen of England, and Viscount of the Isle of Jersey, and of course a man having the means to aid him in his good endeavors, undertook to improve this breed and succeeded in doing so.

These therefore who on hearing about Alderney and Jersey cows, look into Yount for a description of it, must remember that he is reading about a breed that has "stepped over" and is no more like the present improved breed than Hyperion to a Satyr."

Mr. Thomas Motley, Jr., has furnished us with the following statement of the doings of one cow; by which it will appear either that English writers have made a poor pen-and-ink sketch of the Jersey, or that American air is more favorable to their laetral secretions:

JAMAICA PLAINS, Dec. 30, 1853.

I beg leave to enclose the statement of butter made by my Jersey Cow "Flora."

Through the kindness of Wm. S. King, Esq. Editor of the Journal of Agriculture and the Journal of the United States Agricultural Society, we are enabled to give you the above excellent and correct portrait of one of the Jersey cows, imported by Samuel Henshaw, Esq., of Boston. We say correct, because it was taken by Daguerreotype; and we also give you extracts from a very interesting article on this breed by Mr. King, in the last named Journal.

The daguerreotype from which the drawing was made, does her the injustice of increasing the size of her head; (because from the position in which the cow was taken, the head was necessarily nearer to the instrument, than other parts of the animal); but in other respects, the picture is perfect. Her bug, not yet sprung, is seen to be capacious and well formed. It extends well down upon her belly, and is wide, and well up behind. The milk-vessels (so called) that indicate a large secretion of milk, are large, and appear like cables; in this development, she excels every other animal of the breed we ever saw, and equals the best Durham. Her tail is fine, and well set on. Hips, wide, and square with the back. Barrel, broad and roomy. Neck, straight and well set to the shoulder. Head, small, fine, and clean. Eyes, full and glistening like expression. Ears, small, thin and of a deep orange color within.

The following letter from Mr. Henshaw, will be read with interest:

"My first importation of cows was on July, 1850, and five years old, and the Heifer "Daisy," then three years old, they were both selected at a high cost, by a most competent and critical judge, out of one hundred heads on the Island—'Butter Cup' having been the first prize won at the preceding agricultural show in Jersey.

"My second importation (July, 1852) embraced the Cow "Daphne," five years old; the Heifer "Dora," twenty-two months; and "Violet," eighteen months.

"I have not had a fair opportunity to test the milking qualities of my first importation. The cow "Butter Cup" was owing to rough weather, badly bruised on the passage, and arrived in a weak condition. She slipped her calf in December, 1850, her time being well past, and commenced, by giving eight quarts of milk on hay alone, which increased to sixteen quarts in May and June. The last year, (1851,) to gratify some of our Norfolk County Agricultural friends, I sent some of my cows for exhibition to their Show. The consequence was the loss of another calf by "Butter Cup," with the same results as to her milk at the preceding agricultural show in Jersey.

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AUGUSTA:
THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1854.

REPORT ON THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

This report has been some time on our table. The trustees report that the repairs of the Hospital, which were rendered necessary by the destructive fire three years since, have been completed. The building is now more commodious than before, many improvements having been made.

The building is reported to be now well ventilated and warmed, hot water being used for the latter purpose. The plan of the fixtures for doing which, were communicated by Dr. Luther S. Bell, of the McLean Asylum in Massachusetts. There are now 62 male patients, and accommodation for as many more, but the north wing is not sufficient to give all the female patients such accommodation as they ought to have, and they therefore recommend that an additional wing be constructed.

They also state that there is one great and imperious want which has never been adequately supplied, viz: an abundance of pure water. They say that "a powerful fountain was purchased many years since, and an aqueduct laid to it. The spring was abundant, but only a portion of the water would flow through it to the Hospital.

The commissioners supposed the difficulty to arise from the undulating nature of the grounds, so that air disengaged from the water would accumulate in the upper portions of the pipe, and prevent the free passage of the water. They therefore had the ground carefully surveyed by a competent Engineer, and a pipe so laid that there was a continuous descent from the fountain to the Hospital. The water at the Hospital was thus increased some, but at times is inadequate, although the fountain continues to overflow.

A friend at our elbow asks how large the pipe is which was laid down? By turning to the report of the Superintendent, we see that it is 14 inch, and that he thinks it should be three inches—and so do we, and if it were larger than that it would be better yet. A lesson might be taken from the Croton works at New York, and the Cochituate works in Boston, which would show them how to bring any volume of water a half a mile or any required distance where the fountain is, as the trustees say "higher than the roof of the building to which they wish to bring it." The trustees believe the "difficulty to arise from the ground, for forty or fifty rods from the spring, being nearly level, so that there is no head to overcome the friction." If that be the case, all that will be necessary, is to lay a large conduit, or covered culvert, or to dig an open canal for that distance, either of which will in effect bring the fountain forward to that point, from which it will push its way down with a rush, provided nevertheless the pipe or conduit be large enough.

The trustees conclude their report by remarks respecting the risk, and oftentimes unfortunate results of moving patients of unsound minds from the asylum. Mr. Turner, who has been a faithful steward for many years, has resigned the station, and Mr. Theodore C. Allen, has been appointed to officiate as his successor.

He reports that the receipts and resources amounted to \$9,750,75, and the liabilities contracted during the year, to be \$4,254,42, leaving a balance of \$5,505,33.

The superintendent in his report gives a very satisfactory account of the condition of the asylum, and the results of the operations there during the past year. The following extracts will be interesting to many of our readers who do not receive the whole report.

French SPOLIATION BILL. The bill providing five million of dollars, we believe to pay the long neglected demands for French Spoliation, has passed the United States Senate by a vote of 27 to 15. We rejoice to hear that justice has at last made even this amount of progress. We sincerely hope it will pass the House. France paid to the United States the indemnity required for these spoliations, years and years ago, and our Government has most unrighteously kept the claimants' money ever since.

STEAM FIRE ENGINES. The steam fire engine which was first put in use in Cincinnati a few months since, seems to be attracting a large share of attention. The Common Council of Boston, on Thursday last, authorized the Committee who were chosen to ascertain whether any changes were needed in the Boston Fire Department or its apparatus, to visit Cincinnati and examine the steam fire engine of that city, and consider the expediency of having a machine, somewhat similar, built for the use of the city of Boston.

NEBRASKA MEETING. A convention of all parties will be held at Winthrop Hall, in this city, to take into consideration the proposed Nebraska bill, repealing or in other words annihilating the Missouri compromise. It will commence on the evening of Wednesday, March 1st, and continue through Thursday. All who are opposed to this infamous outrage are invited to attend.

PREPARE YOUR POSTAGE. We are told, in connection with the question of revising the present rates of postage, the Congressional committee on Post office matters have reported a bill making it necessary to prepay letter postage in all cases. We should hardly think this would work well in all cases, but it would be a good thing for printers.

A TOBACCONISTS' CONVENTION. A convention of tobacconists met at Albany, N. Y., on Thursday last, at which Joseph Brady, of Portland in this State, presided. The object of the convention is to memorialize Congress against the increasing importation of foreign cigars. They probably go in for the protection of home manufacturers.

EMIGRATION FROM MAINE. We learn from the transcript that a party of fifteen or twenty persons left Gardner and Pittston, last week, for California. A number of ladies were with the party. About the same number of men also set out, at the same time, for Georgia, intending to go into the business of cutting ship timber.

ADMITTED TO THE BAR. At the Supreme Judicial Court at Portland, on the 10th inst., Judge Howard on the Bench Mr. Benjamin Kilburn, of Sidney, was admitted to practice as Attorney at Law, in all the Courts in the State.

ADMISSION PARTY. The friends of Rev. O. B. Cheney, pastor of the Free Will Baptist Society in this city, propose to hold a donation party at his house in Chestnut street, on this (Thursday) evening. We hope he will have a house full, and receive an abundance to supply his temporal wants, for he is industrious, faithful, and deserving.

BIG OFFICERS. Franklin County boasts of raising some pretty heavy officers, and challenges other counties to beat them. We have received the following names and weight of several of their heavy ones: Capt. Enos Finney, of Jay, 260; Capt. Increase S. Eldridge, of Jay, 250; Capt. John Walker, of Wilton, 250; Capt. Jos. Keith, of Chesterville, 240.

THE SARAH SANDS AGAIN. This English steamer arrived at Portland last Sunday. She had a passage of 18 days from Liverpool. She had a rough weather. She brought a part of the passengers of the steamer *Charity* which had to put back to repair. She had 87 passengers.

the boiler, where a turn is made, and they continue back to the bottom or lower part of the boiler, to which they are attached, and into which they open.

The pipes in each division of the hot air chamber receive in their course about four feet. Pure fresh air is received into the chamber from out-doors through brick towers built over flues running under ground to each apartment of the chamber and regulated by dampers. There are two of these cold air flues opening into each apartment, each twelve by sixteen inches. To conduct the hot air into the wards, there are three flues, each nine inches in diameter, opening into the hall through registers at the top of the room. The pipes and all the pipes are now filled with water till it rises in an expansion box connected with the boiler by means of a pipe and placed over it outside of the air chamber for convenience of examination.

DR. HARLOW in closing gives his cordial thanks to those publishers and others, who furnish the inmates with newspapers, which are of great service to them, and beguile them of many a weary hour.

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINATION.

The following summary of the proceedings of the court of inquiry into the San Francisco disaster, during the week last past, we copy from Saturday's Boston Traveller. The examination is still proceeding, at New York.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. The February number of this work is at hand. It contains, besides other articles, "From Belgrade to Bucharest," illustrating the very interesting account of the country about these two places, and the customs of the people; "Life in Paris. Sketches above and below ground," with illustrations; the confirmation of Thackeray's new work; and a number of other interesting articles. This work is fast recovering from the temporary defects in its appearance, and the next number will probably appear in all its former beauty.

GLEASON'S PICTORIAL. This publication has commenced its sixth volume in fine style,—new head, and new type throughout. Its illustrations, which are numerous, are excellent, and often represent scenes and objects of much interest to the readers of the paper. The literary matter, which is almost entirely original, comes with much of it, from some of the best writers in the country. Among the contributors we notice the names of T. S. Arthur, Mrs. Sigourney, Alice Carey, and other talented writers. This paper was the first attempt to establish a first class pictorial in this country which has succeeded, and the circulation it has attained shows that the public deem it worthy of support. It is published weekly in Boston, by F. Gleason, at \$3.00 per annum, and forms, at the end of the year, two handsome volumes for the centre table or library.

NATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MARCH. No. 3. Vol.

4th of this excellent magazine has been received, published by Carlton & Phillips, and edited by Abel Stevens, New York.

NEW PATENTS. For the week ending Feb. 14th, the following new patents were issued from the United States Patent Office to residents of the New England States:—

ROBERT PRESTON, of North Pownal, Vt., for improvement in drying cloth; W. G. Sterling, of Bridgeport, Conn., for improvement in planting hoes; George A. Ambler, of Trumbull, Conn., for improvement in saddle-trees; Jason Barton, of Middle Haddam, Conn., for improvement in horse-bells; Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wescott, of New Haven, Conn., for improvement in firearms; Allen, Goodman and Lyman Wheeler, of Dama, Mass., for improvements for scraping and toothing veneer; Warren Robinson, of New Haven, Conn., for improvement in ship's ventilators.

THE MAINE LAW PASSED IN MARYLAND. The "Maine Law," so called, seems to be spreading into other States. The following is the news from Maryland, in regard to its adoption in that State.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 10. The liquor prohibition law, passed the Maryland House of Delegates yesterday, by a vote of 42 to 23. It contains all the Maine law restrictions, including the power of search, destruction of liquor, &c., and is to go into operation in May, 1856, if previously to receive the whole report.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE OF ART. The February number of this work is received. It is a handsome number, and contains, besides the reading matter, a large number of engravings, of the highest order of the art. This magazine has now entered upon its second year. Among the new features of the present year will be a series of articles on "American Art and Artists," illustrated with portraits and engravings of our artists' chief works. There will also be other articles of a similar character, and equally interesting to the reader. The literary selections are more instructive and special than the generality of magazine literature, while, at the same time, they are interesting and entertaining.

The number before us, among other articles, contains a short biography of John Hampden, a chapter on balloons and ballooning, an interesting letter from Australia, by Wm. Howitt, an article on the Ancient Castles in Ireland, with views of Blarney Castle, &c., and accounts of several celebrated painters, beautifully illustrated by engravings of their best works. The subscription price to this periodical is \$3.00 per annum. Published by Alex. Montgomery, 17 Spruce Street, N. Y., and Frederick Parker, 33 Washington St., Boston.

DR. HARLOW in closing gives his cordial thanks to those publishers and others, who furnish the inmates with newspapers, which are of great service to them, and beguile them of many a weary hour.

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINATION.

The following summary of the proceedings of the court of inquiry into the San Francisco disaster, during the week last past, we copy from Saturday's Boston Traveller. The examination is still proceeding, at New York.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. The February number of this work is at hand. It contains, besides other articles, "From Belgrade to Bucharest," illustrating the very interesting account of the country about these two places, and the customs of the people; "Life in Paris. Sketches above and below ground," with illustrations; the confirmation of Thackeray's new work; and a number of other interesting articles. This work is fast recovering from the temporary defects in its appearance, and the next number will probably appear in all its former beauty.

GLEASON'S PICTORIAL. This publication has commenced its sixth volume in fine style,—new head, and new type throughout. Its illustrations, which are numerous, are excellent, and often represent scenes and objects of much interest to the readers of the paper. The literary matter, which is almost entirely original, comes with much of it, from some of the best writers in the country. Among the contributors we notice the names of T. S. Arthur, Mrs. Sigourney, Alice Carey, and other talented writers. This paper was the first attempt to establish a first class pictorial in this country which has succeeded, and the circulation it has attained shows that the public deem it worthy of support. It is published weekly in Boston, by F. Gleason, at \$3.00 per annum, and forms, at the end of the year, two handsome volumes for the centre table or library.

NATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MARCH. No. 3. Vol.

4th of this excellent magazine has been received, published by Carlton & Phillips, and edited by Abel Stevens, New York.

NEW PATENTS. For the week ending Feb.

14th, the following new patents were issued from the United States Patent Office to residents of the New England States:—

ROBERT PRESTON, of North Pownal, Vt., for improvement in drying cloth; W. G. Sterling, of Bridgeport, Conn., for improvement in planting hoes; George A. Ambler, of Trumbull, Conn., for improvement in saddle-trees; Jason Barton, of Middle Haddam, Conn., for improvement in horse-bells; Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wescott, of New Haven, Conn., for improvement in firearms; Allen, Goodman and Lyman Wheeler, of Dama, Mass., for improvements for scraping and toothing veneer; Warren Robinson, of New Haven, Conn., for improvement in ship's ventilators.

THE MAINE LAW PASSED IN MARYLAND. The "Maine Law," so called, seems to be spreading into other States. The following is the news from Maryland, in regard to its adoption in that State.

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GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &c.

FRAUD IN FLORIDA. The New York Express advises purchasers of flour to have every barrel weighed, many frauds in the weight having lately come to light. In some cases the weight has been found to fall some twenty pounds below the standard. Just now, when prices are so extravagantly high, this is a consideration not to be overlooked.

THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA. The present population of California is estimated at 329,500, of whom 215,000 are Americans, 25,000 Germans, 25,000 French, 20,000 Spanish, 5000 other whites, 20,000 Indians, and 2,500 negroes. Of the whole number about one-fifth are women, and one-tenth children. We can hardly believe, as we look upon the wealth, the prosperity and the population of this young State, that eight years ago it was little more than an uncultivated, and undeveloped wilderness, occupied by about one-twentieth of its present number of inhabitants.</

